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## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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would involve two mobile units which would transmit through commercial stations at Boone and Spruce Pine.

This seems to be a hard, hard way to create jobs. The desire to build up newspaper readership in the so-called low income group is commendable. But with the sum of \$179,000 (which doesn't include any printing equipment since the weekly would be printed under commercial contract) and with 28 persons who would be employed, person-to-person instruction on how to read a newspaper could be given to a lot of people, complete with free subscription to the existing county seat newspaper. This wouldn't be a hard lesson to teach, for example, with Bob Rivers' sprightly Watauga Democrat, a prize-winning weekly at Boone.

Developing an interest in newspaper reading is one thing, but having Uncle Sam foot the bill to publish a federally supported but not a federally controlled newspaper (that's what the man said) is something else again.

Perhaps the WAMY people thought they would allay any fears on the part of existing newspapers by making it clear that they would not accept any advertising. Why should they? With the Office of Economic Opportunity putting tax money into it, no revenue is needed. But the statement doesn't prevent concern. Starting with 8,000 free subscribers, a weekly tabloid produced by such a staff would beg to be read by everybody in the area. Soon there wouldn't be a high income or medium income family in the entire region as far as subscription lists are concerned. Then the frugal mountain people would begin to feel, "Why should I pay for the county seat paper when Uncle Sam sends this to me for nothing?" Even if that doesn't happen quite that way, present advertisers would begin to imagine that the government-financed paper is "taking over" the readers of the area and therefore the fine papers, which are good advertising media now, must somehow be losing subscribers and therefore it wouldn't pay to advertise as much as heretofore. The result: irreparable damage.

If the WAMY people want to create 28 jobs, they can find an easier way. Let them be farmed out to the established newspapers and radio stations for work and training which they envision in their proposed project. They will learn more in such on-the-job training than the community action staff could teach them, certainly if the teachers are as idealistic as the dreamy eggheads who thought up the project in the first place.

What worries us is who sold this "bill of goods" in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties, recognized as the home of highly individualistic mountain stock who don't want to be beholden to anybody, especially to federal bureaucrats and more especially Democratic ones.

If it can happen there, the WAMY may be ahead for all of us.

[From the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal, May 6, 1967]

## ANTIPOVERTY NEWSPAPER IS OPPOSED

MORGANTON.—The N.C. Press Association yesterday spoke out against a proposed government-supported newspaper and radio operation by an antipoverty agency in four Northwest North Carolina counties.

The project is proposed by WAMY Community Action, Inc., of Boone, an antipoverty agency in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. The agency receives support from the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

Speaking for the press association were C.M. Ogle, president, and publisher of the Time News at Hendersonville; and F. D. Fitz, secretary, and editor of the Morganton News-Herald. They sent a telegram to Dr. William H. Platts, chairman of the four-county agency, saying the members of the press association are "deeply disturbed" about the proposal.

## TEXT OF MESSAGE

"We believe present newspapers and radio stations serving your area," the message said, "are doing an adequate job and, in some cases, are widely recognized for their excellence.

"It is difficult to understand how a federally financed newspaper, no matter how lofty its motives, could be regarded as noncompetitive with existing efficient newspapers.

"It seems impossible to avoid eroding the readership, and therefore the revenue, of private news media. We, therefore, strongly oppose this invasion of the field of journalism, and we hope your group will take a second look at the adverse effect."

## CLOSE LOOK

Fitz said later that the press organization plans to take a close look and "see what we can do to stop it." He said that recent attempts to get a similar project approved for the eastern part of the state were defeated.

Victor Wuamette, WAMY public relations representative, said the newspaper and radio operation would be handled by a staff of 28—eight full-time and 20 part-time. The newspaper editor would draw a salary of \$10,000 a year.

Total cost of the project would be about \$179,000.

Wuamette said the weekly eight-page newspaper would be mailed free to about 8,000 low income families of the four counties. One hour of broadcast time daily is planned.

The newspaper would not carry advertising, but would hire 20 correspondents. Wuamette claimed the project would not compete with local and area newspapers and radio stations.

[From the Greensboro (N.C.) News, May 10, 1967]

## APPALACHIAN PRAVDA?

The Office of Economic Opportunity-sponsored WAMY Community-Action Program—serving the four mountain counties of Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey—wants a grant from Washington to establish a poor folks' newspaper. It would cost \$179,000 for the first year—enough to hire a sizeable staff and 20 "community correspondents." It would be designed to acquaint the rural folk of the Appalachian area with local news and job opportunities.

Possibly, the Asheville Citizen overreacted when it labeled this proposed federally-sponsored newspaper-radio operation an "American Pravda" and called it "a limited experiment in printed brainwash." Perhaps it would be, though in fairness it should be noted that the WAMY paper would be published by a board consisting of representatives of privately-owned newspapers and radio stations.

The federal government, like all governments, is already deeply in the public information business—in thousands of ways. Every government department has publications, some of them excellent. Every government department does a good bit of radio advertising, some of it most constructive. So the issue here is an issue of proportion and degree rather than principle.

We think the taxpayers whose funds would support such a venture agree that programs like the war on poverty should have adequate channels of communication and contact with those whom they serve. The sticking point is a subsidized press, which is a noxious and dangerous idea, whether it results from the secret shenanigans of the CIA or USIA, or from needless intrusions on the private press.

Northwestern North Carolina, fortunately, is not impoverished in respect of functioning newspapers. Boone, the focus of the WAMY project, is the home of the Watauga Democrat, a weekly newspaper that is a perennial prize winner in North Carolina Press Association contests. There are many other papers of merit either in, or within circulating range of, the four-county area.

The guiding principle here should be needed. Could an OEO newspaper do more for the area than its many good newspapers are already doing? The case would be hard to make, we suspect. And we further suspect that the Office of Economic Opportunity could find more productive ways to spend \$179,000—with more to follow.

## SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES

Mr. CHURCH. Mr. President, our distinguished colleague from South Dakota, Senator McGOVERN has begun to awaken, as no one else, our realization that we no longer have vast surpluses of food. As the former Director of the food-for-peace program, he speaks with authority in pointing out that when we move into the next century, the world will have twice as many mouths to feed as now.

An excellent appraisal of what this means, in relation to our agricultural States, to U.S. foreign policy and the containment of communism, appears in the May 4 issue of the Intermountain, a newspaper published in Pocatello, Idaho. The article, written by Ben Goddard, sharply emphasizes that we would do well to heed the distinguished Senator's words.

I ask unanimous consent that it appear at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES

(By Ben Goddard)

Senator George McGovern of South Dakota tells us we have about twenty years to win what he calls the most important war in the history of this world . . . the war against hunger.

There has been so much talk over the past ten years about soil banks, price supports and food surpluses, he reports, that we have all but lulled ourselves to sleep. We no longer have the great surpluses in this country that gave rise to the food for peace programs.

There are now approximately three and one half billion persons in the world . . . in thirty odd years there will be over seven billion mouths to feed.

Communism thrives on hunger, poverty and want. It is the professed foreign policy of the United States Government to curb the growth of communism throughout the world. If that, and not imperialism, is our goal it behooves us to heed the words of Senator McGovern.

## IDAHO WOULD GAIN

In Idaho, as in other agricultural states, we have a vested interest in a radical change in our foreign policy. No Idahoan should support a foreign policy of bombs and bullets when we can support a foreign policy of butter and accomplish much more.

At one period in her history Idaho sent two men to the United States Senate who were loudly and effectively opposed to war as an extension of foreign policy.

The isolationist views of Senators Borah and Pope are no longer popular, but the motivation for those views is no less sound.

## WAR INDUSTRIES

Senator Pope served on the committee that touched off an international commotion with their revelations of business practices within the munitions industry. The Nye Committee dared to suggest that the U.S. just may have avoided World War I had there been a more enlightened policy toward the financial and material support of European conflicts.

Some thirty years later an American President, in a farewell address, warned his public to beware of the growing "military-industrial